

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT REC'D FROM WHITE HOUSE

7-13-73

APPROVED BY EA - ARTHUR W. HUMMEL

EA/IMS - MR. HEAVNER

S/S (7312896)

S/S - MR. ELIOT

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P 140016Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 138283

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:GDS

SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO SUHARTO ON DESTROYER ESCORTS

1. PLEASE DELIVER TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO FOLLOWING LETTER
DATED JULY 12, 1973 FROM THE PRESIDENT:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER,
DELIVERED BY GENERAL HASNAN HABIB ON MAY 15, IN WHICH YOU
DESCRIBED INDONESIA'S MARITIME SECURITY PROBLEM. I AM
PLEASED THAT THE DESTROYER ESCORT WHICH THE UNITED STATES
NAVY RECENTLY TRANSFERRED TO YOUR NAVY IS ALREADY PROVING
OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD.

I FULLY UNDERSTAND YOUR INTEREST IN OBTAINING THREE ADDIT-
IONAL DESTROYER ESCORTS OF THE CLAUD JONES CLASS. I CAN
ASSURE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT INDONESIA'S NEED FOR SHIPS
OF THIS TYPE IS BEING GIVEN PRIORITY CONSIDERATION. THE
THREE U.S. NAVY SHIPS THAT MIGHT FULFILL YOUR NEEDS
PRESENTLY ARE PERFORMING MISSIONS WITH THE U.S. FLEET.

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HOWEVER, IT IS MY HOPE THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SHIPS

CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE EARLY IN THE COMING YEAR AND THE
REMAINDER EARLY IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR. AMBASSADOR GAL-
BRAITH WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT WHEN SPECIFIC
ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSFERRING THESE SHIPS CAN DEFINITELY
BE CONFIRMED.

MAY I AGAIN EXPRESS MY ADMIRATION FOR THE PROGRESS WHICH
INDONESIA HAS MADE UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP. AS YOU KNOW,
MY GOVERNMENT WANTS TO DO WHAT IT CAN, WITHIN THE LIMITS
OF OUR RESOURCES, TO ASSIST YOUR COUNTRY'S OUTSTAND-
ING EFFORTS TO ADD TO THE STABILITY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS, SINCERELY, RICHARD NIXON.
UNQUOTE

2. SIGNED ORIGINAL BY POUCH. RUSH

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NNN

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